GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4189
ANSWERED ON:20.08.2001
GOLD RESERVES
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Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated quantum of Gold reserves in the country at present;

(b) the quantum of gold explored annually in the country;

(c) the locations of Gold reserves is going on and the quantity of the gold being explored annually ;

(d) whether the Government have taken steps to formulate Gold Exploration Policy; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL)

(a) As per the information furnished by Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), a subordinate organisation under the Ministry of Mines, the recoverable reserves of gold ore in the country are placed at 17.79 million tonnes containing about 67.9 tonnes of gold metal.

(b)&(c) As per the information furnished by IBM, details of gold exploration by Geological Survey of India (GSI), Mineral Exploratior Corporation Ltd. and the State Government of Karnataka and locations thereof, is given at Annexure.

(d)&(e) No policy has been formulated exclusively for Gold exploration. However, National Mineral Policy announced in March 1993 seeks inter-alia to explore for identification of mineral wealth in the land and in off-shore areas. Under the policy, the Government has laid emphasis on induction of state of the art technology and private participation in exploration and mining of precious and rare minerals. For this purpose, large area prospecting licenses/ Reconnaissance permits have been granted for various minerals including gold. So far, out of 115 large area prospecting licenses/ Reconnaissance permits that have been granted till 31st July, 2001, 98 have been granted inter-alia for gold in the States of Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Gujarat, and Maharashtra.

Annexure

Details of exploration for Gold by Geological Survey of India (GSI), Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL) and Governmer of Karnataka since 1997-98.

Andhra Pradesh : Consequent to the exploration by GSI a resource of 5.91 million tonnes of gold ore was estimated with 1.15 g/t of gold in Dona-east area of Kurnool district. Similarly in the Boksampalle North block area, Annantpur district, investigations indicated promising mineralisation with gold value upto 1.4 g/t. and in Pedapari-Kunta block of Chittoor district indicated gold values from 1 to 5.5. g/t.

Bihar : The exploration resulted in locating gold bearing rocks in Sursi-Kharswan sector of Sonapet Valley and sample assayed maximum 1.10 g/t in stream sediments in Kullchallinala and quartz vein samples analysed upto 1.6 g/t/ of gold. Further, in Morchagora Bhilardari area, the volcano sedimentary pile of rock traversed by quartz vein and bed-rock samples in the area yielded 0.06 g/t/ to 3.75 g/t.

Karnataka : Under the GSI-BRGM (France) collaborative programme, the geo-chemical prospecting have resulted in gold value maximum at 1.4 g/t in South of Kakkol and Ranebennur areas, Dharwar district.

Kerala : In Kottathara block in Palakad district, the exploration resulted in estimation of additional reserve of 24,000 tonnes of gold ore with an average grade of 13.36 g/t of gold, thus totalling 0.6 million tonnes of ore estimated in this area.

Rajasthan : In Bhukia (East) Central Block of Banswara district, a recalculation of reserve for gold ore incrased at 90,000 tonnes of gold ore with a grade 2 g/t to 2.96 g/t.

Uttar Pradesh : In Gurharpahar block, Sidhi district, a probable ore reserve of 5.37 million tonnes of gold ore with 1.04 g/t gold has been estimated of which 2.1 million tonnes are with grade 1.28 g/t.

Besides above, GSI has carried out exploration work in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Gujarat, Orissa etc.

A total of 17.12. million tonnes of gold ore reserves in small to medium size of deposits were established by MECL at Chittur and Annantpur in Andhra Pradesh, Singhbhum in Bihar, Raichur, Dharwad, Hassan, Kolar and Haveri in Karnataka and Malappuram in Kerala

Government of Karnataka has reported exploration work going on at :-

Hutti - Maski schist belt - a) Ooti, b) Hirabudni and c) Hutti.

Shimoga - Chitradurga - Gadag Schist belt - a) Chinmalgund, b) Kudurekonda,
c) Pallavanahalli, d) Chalageri,
e) Hunsikatte, f) Ajjanahalli and
g) G.R. Halli.